

THE EDDY-LEA ENERGY ALLIANCE, LLC GLOBAL NUCLEAR ENERGY PARTNERSHIP Award Number: DE-FG07-07ID14799 City of Carlsbad Public Participation Meeting Pecos River Conference Center March 28th, 2007 6:00p.m

Carlsbad, New Mexico, located in Eddy County, was the third location of four for Public Participation Meetings (PPM) held by the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, LLC (ELEA). The purpose of the meetings are to solicit public opinion regarding the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) siting-study, as well as to provide specific information regarding both program and site-specific aspects of the GNEP process and to address the local stakeholder concerns, issues, and values.

Public Notice and Public Outreach

Public advertisement appeared in the Carlsbad Current Argus daily newspaper March 25th and 27th. Legal notices were published on March 18th, 25th, and 27th (See Attachment A). In addition, direct telephone and electronic mail communications were made with Eddy County, Lea County, Hobbs, and Carlsbad local elected and appointed officials and members of the state legislative delegation from the involved areas. Shoats and Weaks, the ELEA Communications lead, placed telephone calls to approximately 130 citizens identified from a list of local citizens provided by Carlsbad Mayor Bob Forrest (See Attachment B). There were 83 individuals in attendance at the public hearing, with 63 signing in and providing contact information (See Attachment C). The meeting was held at the Pecos River Conference Facility, a publicly owned and managed center that is ADA compliant.

The Public Participation Meeting

ELEA requested that the communications team customize the PPM agenda to each community, ensuring that surrounding and impacted communities are well informed and have an opportunity to participate. Each PPM is transcribed and a Spanish translator was in attendance for anyone requiring translation services. The agenda for the Carlsbad PPM addressed the ELEA objectives for the City of Carlsbad and Eddy County specifically (See Attachment D). Ms. Marla Shoats of Shoats & Weaks opened the meeting by summarizing the agenda and introducing the presenters, including Mayor Forrest and Commissioner Whitlock. Attendees were welcomed and given an overview of ELEA by Bob Forrest, Mayor of Carlsbad, and Janelle Whitlock, **Eddy County** Commission Chairperson. historical Mayor **Forrest** provided a perspective of the development of ELEA utilizing a Power Point presentation (See Attachment E). The first slide depicted the 25% ownership breakdown between the four partners of the LLC: Eddy County, Lea County, the City of Hobbs, and the City of Carlsbad. He further emphasized commitment and collaboration present among all four entities and how they have each, equally, invested their commitment to the project. subsequent **GNEP** The emphasized the leadership positions and community involvement of the ELEA Board members: Alliance Chairs Johnny Cope (Lea) and Mayor Bob Forrest (Carlsbad), Secretary Jim Maddox (Hobbs), and Treasurer Janelle Whitlock (Eddy). The community leadership,



strength, and commitment of the alternate members for the Alliance board [Former Chairman of the Lea County Board of Commissioners Harry Teague (Lea), Chairperson State Representative and Hazardous Radioactive and Materials Committee John Heaton (Carlsbad), Mayor Monty Newman (Hobbs), and County Manager Steve Massey (Eddy)] illustrate the depth of strength the Alliance board holds. The community was also introduced to the ELEA Team: Principle Investigator, Dr. Mark communications Turnbough: consultant Shoats and Weaks; Gordon Environmental; corporate partners AREVA and WGI. The attendees were then shown the final slide that detailed the ELEA/GNEP site located approximately halfway between Hobbs and Carlsbad on U.S. Highway 62/180 (the WIPP Route).

Both Mayor Forrest and Commissioner Whitlock expressed their pleasure at having ELEA being selected as a possible site for GNEP and graciously welcomed the PPM attendees. They also lauded the uniqueness of the bi-county effort and the cooperative nature of the ELEA partnership. They noted that the membership of ELEA represented the elected and community leadership of the involved communities and the involved political jurisdictions. Mayor Forrest pointed out that Carlsbad was experienced in dealing with Department of Energy projects and noted the success and safety of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and the very positive and productive partnership that the City of Carlsbad and the community has with the WIPP and its contractors. Mayor Forrest also complimented Lea County officials and the communities of Hobbs and Eunice in the successful handling of the LES project. The Mayor further noted that the projects are examples of the experience and synergy of the communities and individuals involved with the ELEA and are excellent reasons why the ELEA should be highly regarded in consideration for **GNEP** the site. Commissioner Whitlock stated that the support of the Eddy County Commission for the GNEP was unanimous. She indicated that the ELEA site was the best location due to the characterization, community support, and the quality of the ELEA team. In addition, she further emphasized community's the experience with the WIPP project and that the Department of Energy's historic involvement in the community was an additional asset. Following the Mayor and Commissioner the agenda included presentations from Bob Keherman from Washington Group International, Sunita Kumar from AREVA, Turnbough, and Dr. Mark Principal Investigator on behalf of ELEA's GNEP proposal.

The Corporate Partnership

Washington Bob Kehrman, Group International (WGI), gave a history and overview of WGI. Mr. Kehrman explained that WGI employed over 25,000 people and operated in 40 states and over 30 counties. The corporation has vast experience in energy environmentally related including WIPP and was integrally involved in the development of the Washington TRU Solutions transportation project, management of WIPP operations, and securing the remotehandled permit. WGI's safety record at WIPP as well as other projects and programs internationally is excellent. There are three units of WGI presently in operation in Carlsbad: Washington Environmental and Regulatory Services, Engineering Products Division, and Washington TruSolutions. WGI is also presently involved in the development and construction of the LES facility in Eunice. WGI's role in the GNEP as a partner is to manage site selection and development, as well as to manage fieldwork and all subcontractors. Mr. Kehrman reported that work on the site is progressing well and that WGI's experience with projects such as WIPP



and LES has resulted in WGI being well integrated within the communities, culture, and people of Lea and Eddy Counties. Fourteen color exhibits prepared by Gordon Environmental were also presented on display easels illustrating site-specific information regarding site characterization of the ELEA site that is located halfway between Hobbs and Carlsbad on U.S. Highway 62/180, the WIPP route (Gordon Environmental Site Characterization exhibits will be submitted with the final communication report).

Kumar represented AREVA. Ms. Kumar gave a brief history and overview of the corporation and explained to the audience that AREVA had a significant corporate presence in the U.S. with over 5,000 employees at 40 locations. The company's focus is on providing fuel and related services to nuclear plants, including operations and maintenance. A DVD was shown, presenting a corporate overview of AREVA as well as an explanation of the nuclear fuel cycle including uranium mining/enrichment, fuel fabrication, reactor services, recycling, and used fuel management (AREVA DVD will be submitted with final communication report). Ms. Kumar closed noting that AREVA is involved with all phases of the nuclear energy process and has a worldwide presence and expressed AREVA's commitment to ELEA and GNEP.

GNEP OVERVIEW

Turnbough, the **Principal** Mark Investigator on the project, presented an overview of GNEP and noted the strength and suitability of the ELEA site with respect to GNEP needs. Dr. Turnbough noted that ELEA offers a perfect combination of site suitability and community support and that the economic, human, scientific, and environmental dynamics associated with the project were very encouraging. Dr. Turnbough indicated that GNEP and the current conditions regarding worldwide energy problems presented a unique opportunity to

affect a major shift in public policy related to energy issues.

Turnbough a Power Dr. gave Point presentation detailing GNEP from a technical (See Attachment perspective F). presentation explained the differences between a Closed Fuel Cycle system and an Open Fuel Cycle system and some of the related exigent issues regarding such forms of energy production. Dr. Turnbough explained that the goal of GNEP was multifaceted: energy sufficiency, making nuclear energy a more viable energy alternative, safeguarding and control of nuclear waste, and developing and more efficient recycling better technology. Two projects and potential solutions were discussed that involve the development of two facilities: Consolidated Fuel Treatment Center (CFTC) Recycling Reactor. Advanced Dr. Turnbough also noted that several handouts were included in the brochure and materials given to attendees and went over the various briefs that included "The Future of Nuclear Energy," "The Nuclear Fuel Cycle Fact Sheet," "Managing Used Nuclear Fuel," and "Used Nuclear Fuel Treatment and Recycling" (See Attachment Dr. Turnbough indicated that the solution to the world's energy problems could through combination addressed a technological changes in the production of energy through the use of fossil fuels, development of other forms of alternative energy production, and the criticality on managing these waste streams.

The Infrastructure Requirements of GNEP

Dr. Turnbough reviewed the infrastructure needs of the ELEA site and pointed out some of the site characteristics that demonstrate that the site is the most suitable for locating the CFTC and the ARR. The site is geographically stable and it is free of any surficial complexity that could cause problems



with the construction and long-term operation of the GNEP. Also noted was the fact that there isn't any karst topography in the area or any threat on the proposed site to animals or plants currently on the endangered species list. The site meets all GNEP criteria and is relatively isolated.

In addition, the site has access to a large volume of dedicated water in the Ogallala Aquifer in the Lea County Basin and water rights are secured. Electrical power lines run to the north and south of the site with 220kV and 114kV lines. There is an existing, operable rail spur about 3.8 miles from the site. The site is adjacent to U.S. Highway 62/180, the last leg of the WIPP transportation route. Dr. Turnbough pointed out that the transportation system was recently subjected to intense review during the permitting process that allows for the WIPP to receive remote-handled waste. This has set a precedent for addressing some of the transportation issues that will need to be considered for the GNEP facility. conclusion, the ELEA site and the existing infrastructure is physiographically suitable and has access to water, electricity, rail, the WIPP-approved highway system (with no encroachment issues), and offers proximity to existing nuclear-related facilities in LES, WCS, and WIPP.

Public Comment

Marla Shoats thanked Dr. Turnbough and recognized the importance of public participation to the GNEP process. Ms. Shoats opened the floor to audience questions and/or comments asking the state legislators in attendance to begin with their comments. Twenty-three individuals spoke during the public comment segment of the meeting.

Legislator comment indicated that the region has historically supported nuclear-related projects such as WIPP and LES, as well as the Andrews County Texas project involving Waste Control Specialists (WCS). Senators

Leavell and Asbill and Representative Heaton applauded the level of attendance and expressed their support of ELEA and assured the group that they would work hard to secure necessary state and federal support to facilitate siting process and infrastructure development. The legislators noted that support for the project reflected a pervasive "culture" in the community in support of WIPP, LES, WCS, and now the GNEP. They indicated that support was not only among the political and business leaders but the general population as well. Representative Heaton stated that when campaigning door-to-door, during the fall election, he would often ask constituents about these projects and never received negative feedback. Representative Heaton commented on the positive safety record of WIPP, as well as the professional management and community sensitivity exhibited by the WIPP operators. Senator Leavell commented that the existing and proposed projects would greatly enhance economic development of the region, resulting in an increase in quality jobs and careers, and encouraging future generations to remain in their communities. Senator Leavell stated that the state's universities and national labs would be valuable assets to the project. He also announced that an appropriation has been made to New Mexico Tech during the recently completed legislative session to fund a Southeast New Mexico Center for Energy Studies.

Senator Asbill shared his support for the project and stated that he is proud that the communities had come together in such a strong and cohesive manner to promote this site. Senator Asbill also said that given the circumstances surrounding the energy industry and the issues with nuclear waste, the project was not only viable but also imperative.

Comments were then received from approximately 24 members from the audience.

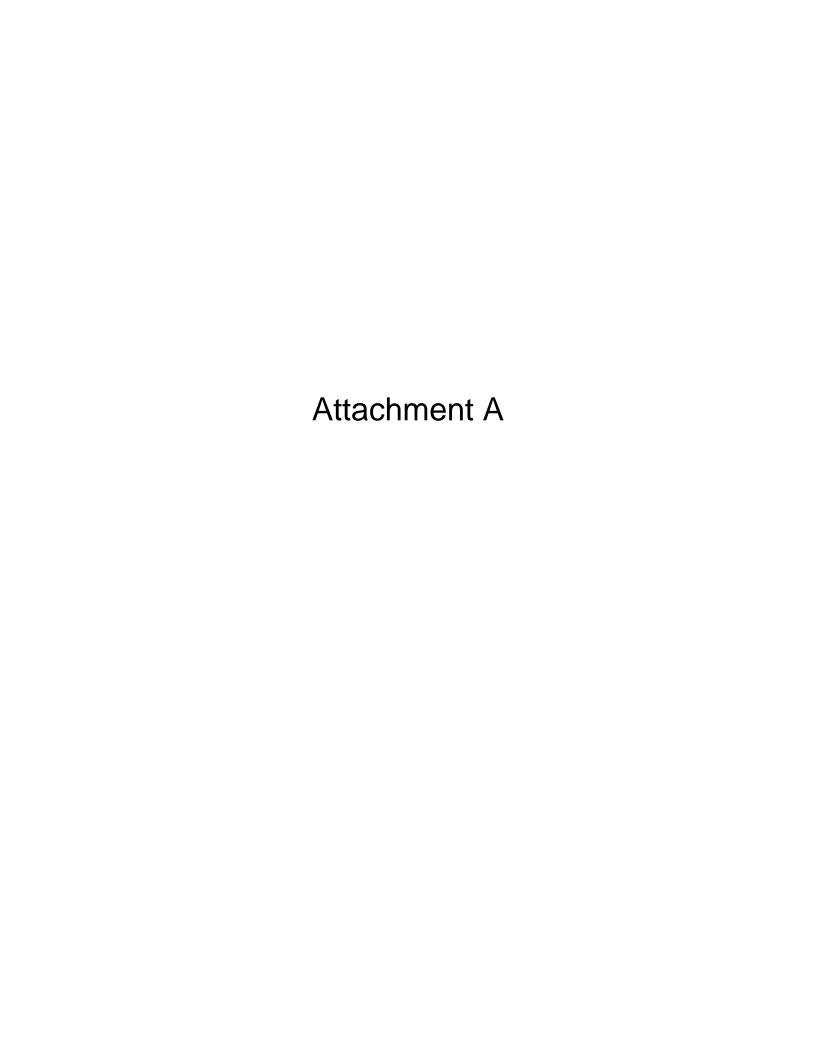


All of the public comments were positive toward the projects and supportive of the ELEA organization and efforts to secure GNEP. Most individuals indicated that although there was some initial skepticism regarding the WIPP, the operation has proven to be a very safe, well managed, and a significant economic driver for the community. Many statements were made regarding the potential jobs and opportunities that would come with GNEP. The Associate Director of the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring Research Institute (CEMRC), which is part of the Institute of Energy and Environment, New Mexico State University Engineering Department, spoke and explained that his organization monitored the health of nonoccupational workers and the population in and around Carlsbad, and reported that there have not been any problems related to WIPP. He encouraged the participants to look at the CEMRC web site for more information. In addition, he offered continued assistance from CEMRC to ELEA. Another participant voiced her strong support for GNEP, sharing that as a German immigrant she was able to obtain her advanced degrees and establish a career working for WIPP in part due to the support from WIPP strong and the community. Several participants spoke of the supportive culture and values of the community relative to nuclear energy and the

history of the area's involvement and understanding of the oil and gas industry. One speaker specifically related her negative experience in the Denver area as a worker at Rocky Flats and the discriminatory and disparaging manner in which the community treated her and her family. She noted that those attitudes did not exist in Carlsbad and that the community was proud to have nuclear-related industry located in the community and that the community's attitude was very understanding and positive.

Summary

The public comments at the ELEA Public Participation Meeting in Carlsbad, New Mexico, were extremely positive and demonstrated a solid understanding of the GNEP project and the nuclear industry in general. The participants of the community repeatedly that their collective experience with WIPP, LES, and WCS has provided residents, businesses, and the labor force with thorough knowledge of nuclear energy and the health and safety concerns associated with the industry. The community of Carlsbad was enthusiastic about the educational, environmental, and economic opportunities that the GNEP project could bring to the area.



Affidavit of Publication

5058851066

State of New Mexico. County of Eddy, ss.

April Hernandez, being first duly sworn, on oath says:

That she is HR/Administrative Assistant of the Carlsbad Current-Argus, a newspaper published deily at the City of Carlsbad, in said county of Eddy, state of New Mexico and of general paid circulation in said county, that the same is a duly qualified newspaper under the laws of the State wherein legal notices and advertisements may be published; that the printed notice attached hereto was published in the regular and entire edition of said newspaper and not in supplement thereof on the date as follows, to wit:

March 18	2007
March 25	2007
March 27	20 07
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That the cost of publication is \$ 104.06 and that payment thereof has been made and will be assessed as court costs.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

day of (

My commission expires

Notery Public

OFFICIAL SEAL stephanie dobson Notary Public State of New Mex My Corner, Expires

Morch 18, 25, and 27, 2007

Cartebad, NM Public Meeting Notice

Notice of Public Participation Meeting: The Eddy-Lea Energy Allianco will hold a public meeting to provide information about the Global Nuclear Energy Partner ship (GNEP) processed the potential of locating two major GNEP facilities of the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance Site; which is approximately half approximately half and Carisbed on Highway 62/180

Date: Wednesday March 28, 2007 Location: Recas River Village River Village is invited to partial pate and provide comment on the proposed project

Time and Place of Hearing:

6-9PM Pecos River Villags Carlsbad, NM

Contact: Jennifer Garcia Kozlewski 505,890,0306

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Affidavit of Publication

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PUBLIC MEETING GNEP PROJECT

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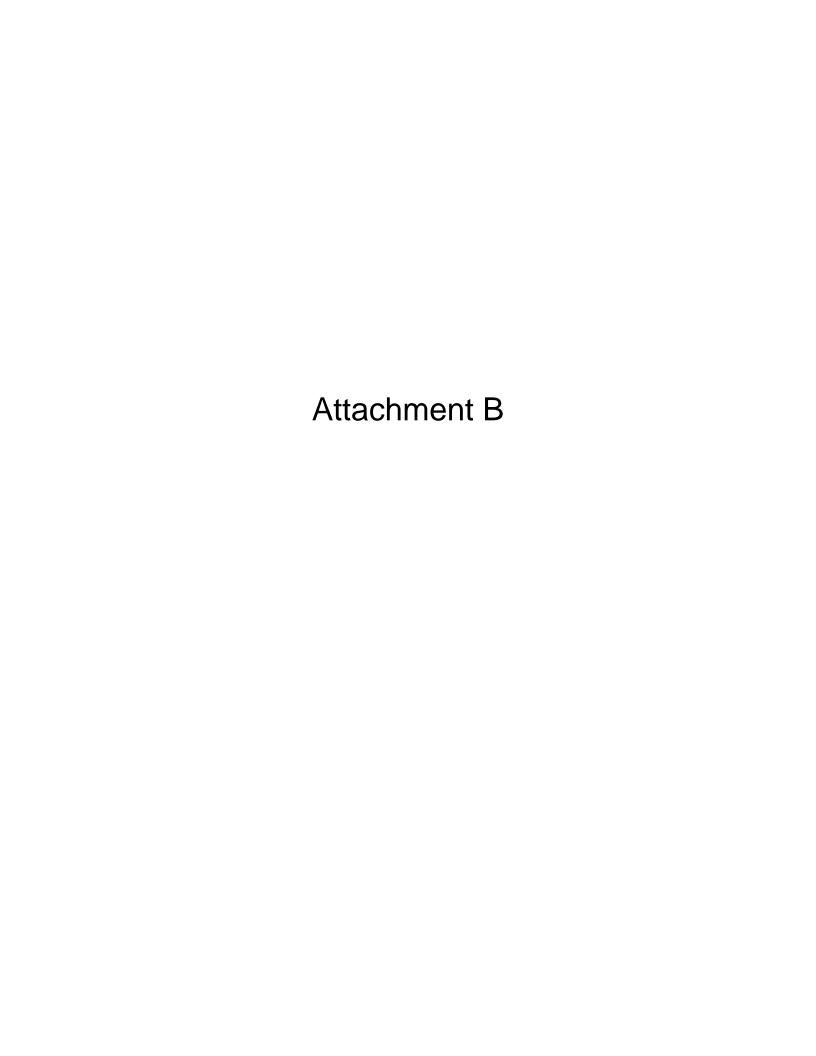
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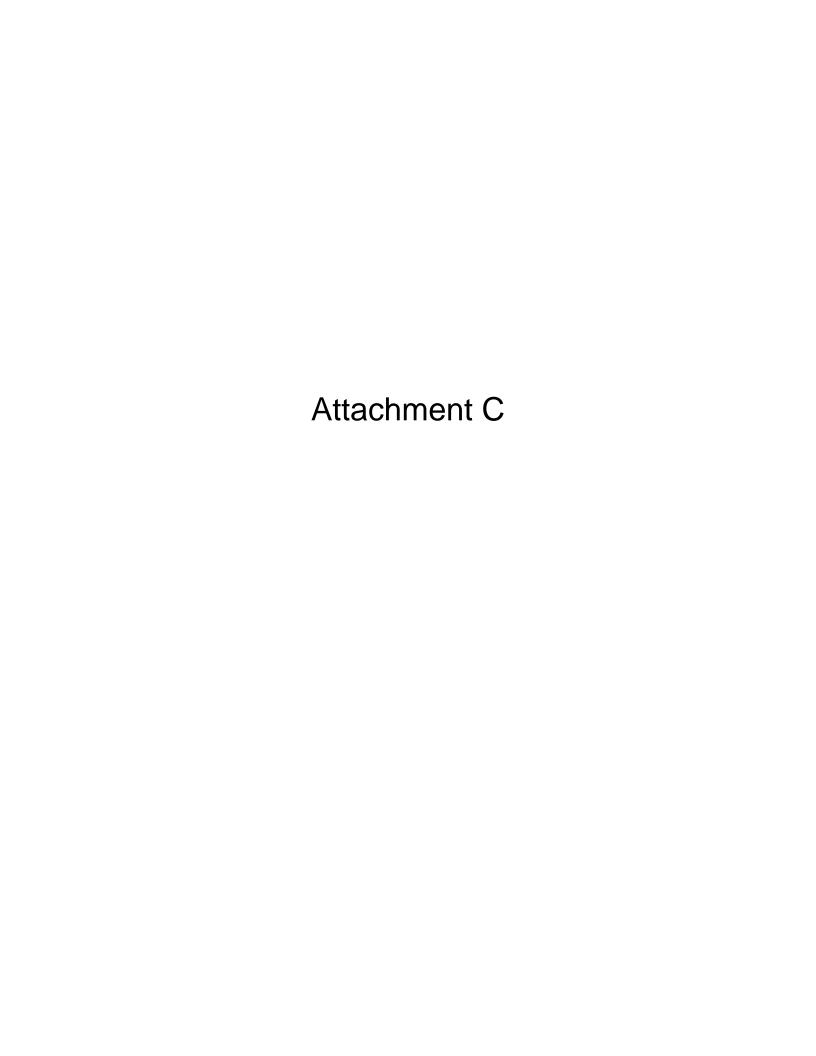
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WAYNE	BALLARD	Respen	204 FERNDALE	17		١ ١	
Jerri	McTaggart	Sulf	6005 Grandi Rd	Carlobad	88330	706-0207	Mctaggart jerni @ yaha.co

Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP)

First Name	Last Name	Company	Address	City	Zip	Phone #	Email
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Richard	Davier	Sett	303 Who Who	Garlsta	88220	887-1702	I davierco warp
Tricia	Johnson	Intera Inc.	4160 Commerce Dr Fack 105	Coulsbad	88220	235-6618	pjehnson@intera.com
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Cliff	Strud		40H W. Riverside Dr.	Collos	8850	0 706-0218	CS transformet. Com
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Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP)

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OHN	HEATON	5t lep 1: 455		-	88220	, 887-5983	J'heaterce covernes, con	*
Bob	FORREST	C174	1306 Roverede	~	-	8873798	bollond Carlolan,	zm.
Larry	Hendersm	Ctizen	[302 S. Country	✓	88220	887-7666	larry henderson Plateaut	1
Jm	Hurst	Washington Group International	202 W. Victoria					
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Roger	Nelson	Self	1620 No. Guadalupe	71	tı	887-5648	rnelsone warpdriveduline.	cong
Stewart	Jones	wat	1911 Clasing 2018 Russell	C-bul	8872	234-324)	Stewest. Jone @wgint.com	m
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Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP)

February 28, 2007 Carlsbad, NM

First Name	Last Name	Company	Address	City	Zip	Phone #	Email
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while	Regnaldh	Carbball Fire Dept	409 S. Halagaino	CiBad	88220	887-0924	mreynolds @ plateautel.net
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Ron	Reeves	CEHMM	1208 Landsun Drit	Carlshood	88220	628-8545	ron, reeves Deehmm. org
Lisa	Hudston	CEMRC	1400 University	Carlsbad	88230	234-5532	I hudstone cemrc.

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Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP)

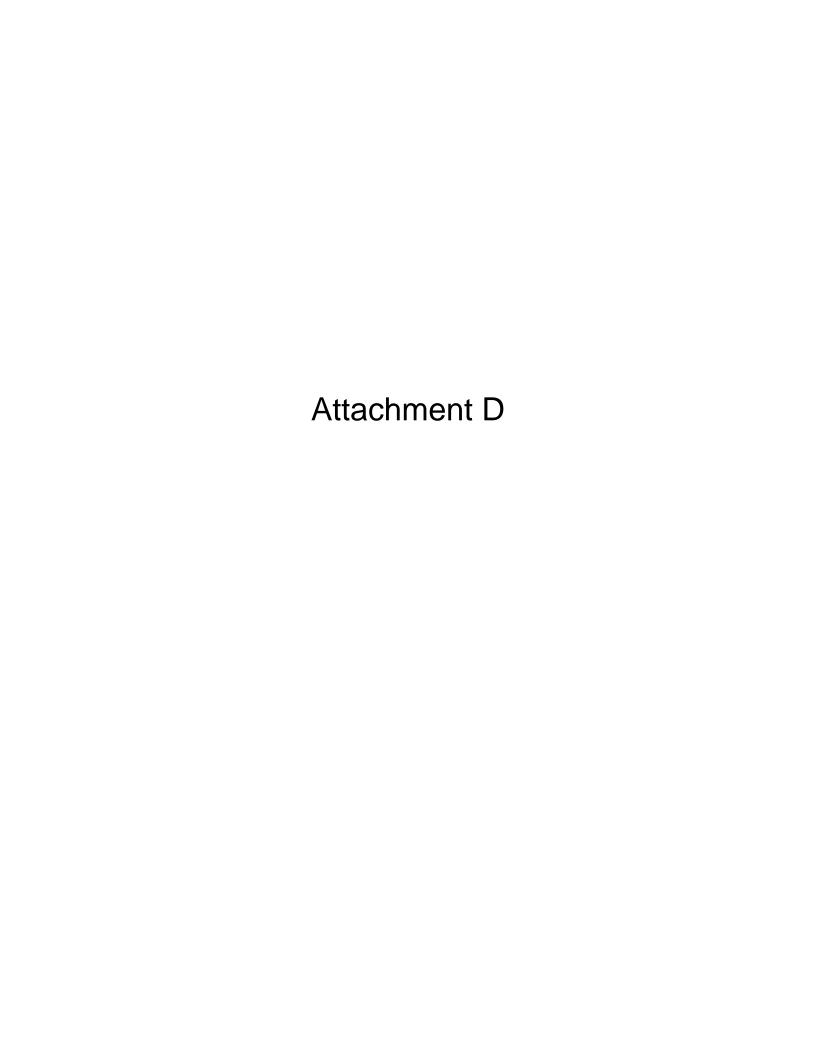
First Name	Last Name	Company	Address	City	Zip	Phone #	Email
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Margi	Andrewson	Retired	1905 Callaway			885-0787	
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C.m.	Power	MerlandInc	10 Box 548	Chm	88221	-	

Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP)

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Greg	Brown	CEHMM	505 N. May	11	((302-1963	
Dave	Kump	Washington TKU Sol.	607 Baltros (+	r (re	887-3843	
Jack	Volpan	Eddy County	(526 MUNCH)	Calsbo	. ((935-3716	Jockvolpano Hormy Con
Gemmo	FERGUST	WESTERN CORM BIL	Pobon 5125	Caelibra	Ú.	887-0777	,

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EDDY-LEA ENERGY ALLIANCE, LLC

Wednesday, March 28, 2007 Pecos River Village 6PM Carlsbad, New Mexico

<i>I</i> .	Format	of Public	Participation	n Meeting

Marla Shoats

- II. Welcome
- III. Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, LLC

Mayor Bob Forrest

Commissioner Janelle Whitlock

IV. Corporate Partnership

Bob Kehrman Washington Group International

Jim Medford AREVA

V. Technical Parameters of GNEP and the Practical Necessity of Fuel Recycling

Mark Turnbough, Ph.D

Public Comment

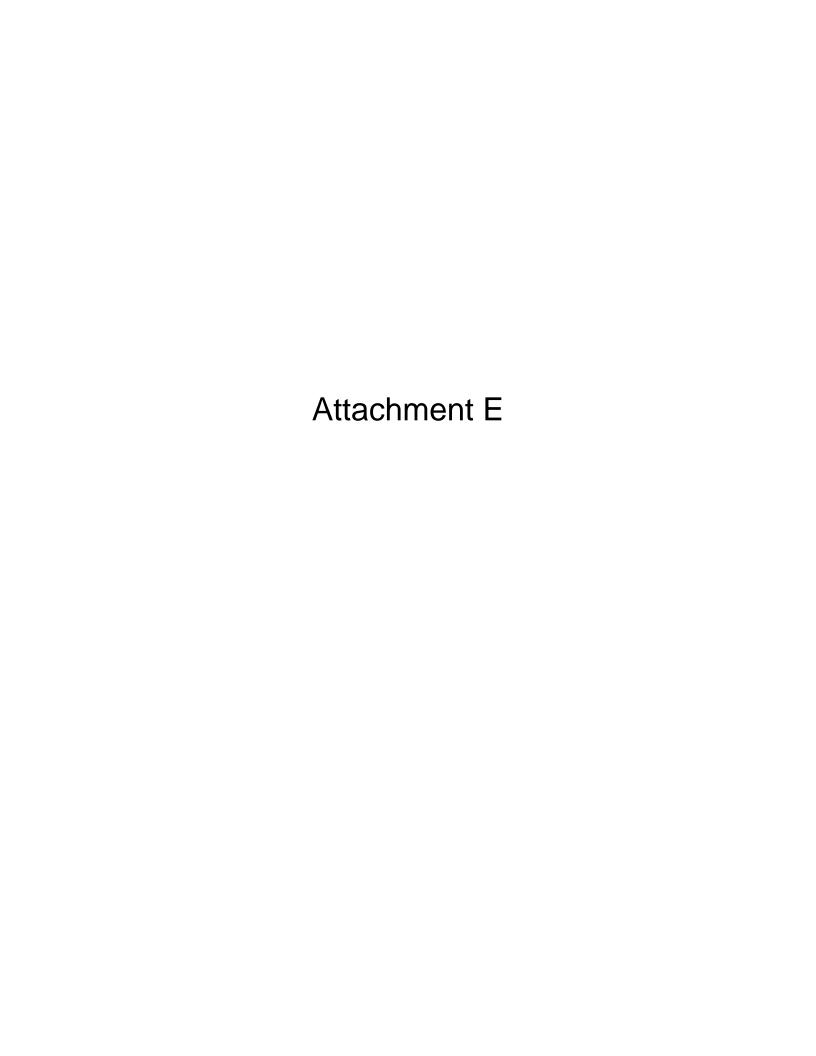
15 Minute Break

VI. The Infrastructure Requirements of GNEP

Mark Turnbough, Ph.D

Public Comment

ELEA PO BOX 905 HOBBS NM 99240



EDDY-LEA ENERGYALLIANCE, LLC

OWNERSHIP OF LLC PER PUBLIC ENTITY

- **EDDY COUNTY**
- LEA COUNTY
- CITY OF HOBBS
- CITY OF CARLSBAD

EDDY-LEA ENERGY ALLIANCE, LLC

BOARD MEMBERS

JOHNNY COPE

CHAIR

(LEA COUNTY)

MAYOR BOB FORREST

VICE-CHAIR

(CITY OF CARLSBAD)

JIM MADDOX

SECRETARY

(CITY OF HOBBS)

COMM. JANELL E. WHITLOCK

TREASURER

(EDDY COUNTY)

ALTERNATES

HARRY TEAGUE

(LEA COUNTY)

REP. JOHN HEATON

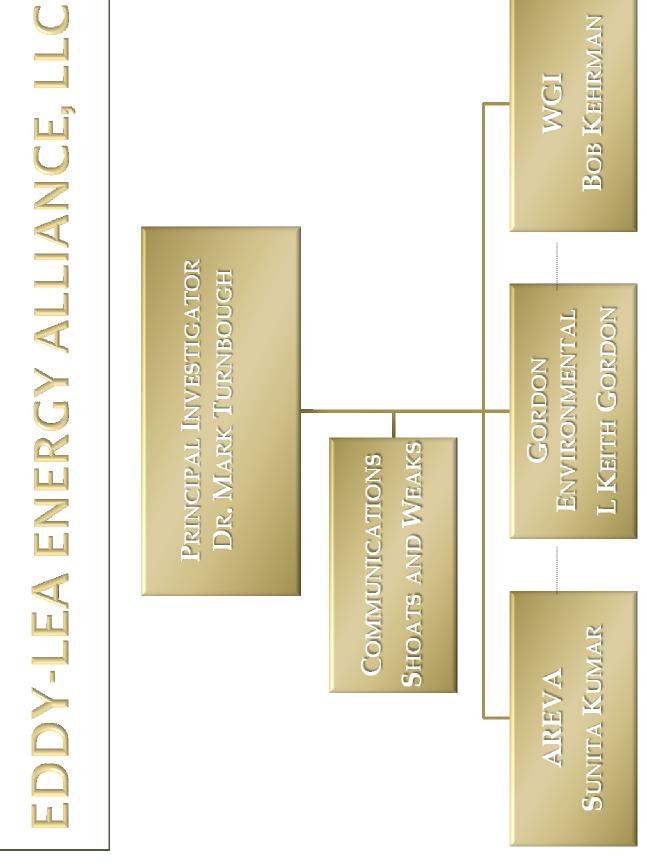
(CITY OF CARLSBAD)

MAYOR MONTY NEWMAN

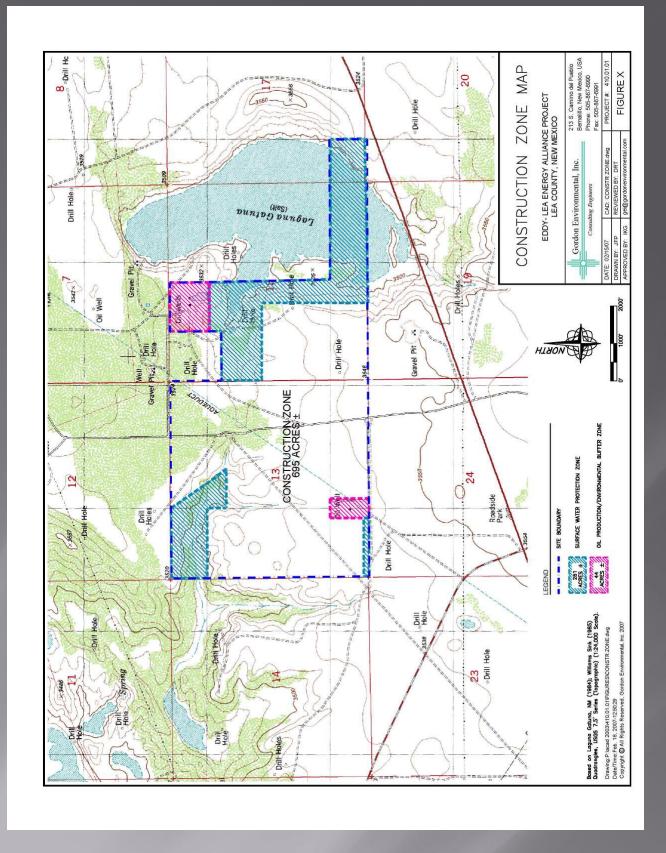
(CITY OF HOBBS)

STEVE MASSEY

(EDDY COUNTY)



EDDY-LEA ENERGY ALLIANCE, LLC GNEP SITING STUDIES AREA







Global Nuclear Energy **Partnership**

EDDY-LEA ENERGY ALLIANCE, LLC

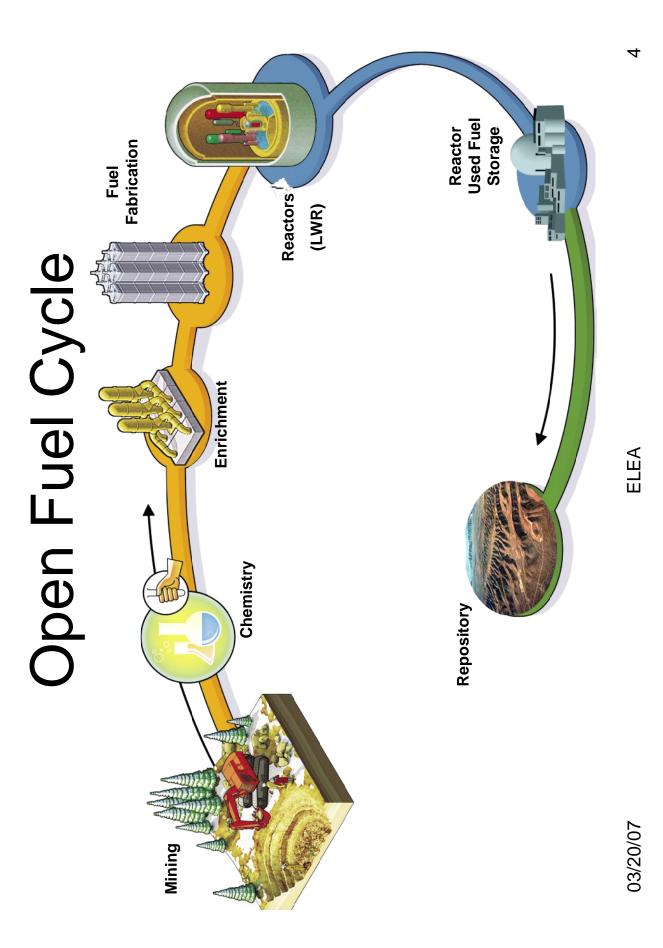
GNEP Technical Overview

Mark Turnbough, PhD.
Principal Site Investigator

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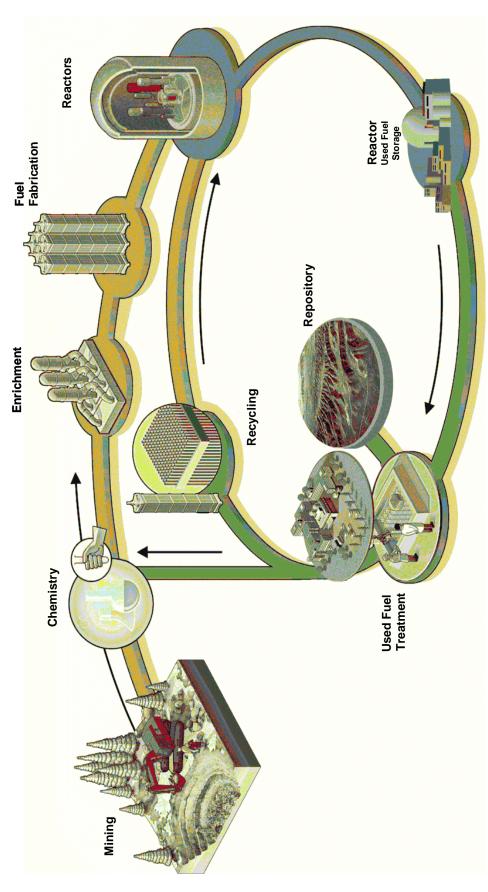
GNEP - U.S. Program Goals

- meet energy challenges without emitting air pollution or Encourage expansion of nuclear energy production to greenhouse gases
- Recycle used nuclear fuel to minimize waste and reduce proliferation concerns
- Combine worldwide commercial fuel cycle industry expertise with DOE national laboratory advanced technologies R&D
- Reduce the number of required U.S. geologic waste repositories to one for the remainder of this century
- Assure maximum energy recovery from still valuable used nuclear fuel
- Encourage international cooperation among GNEP partners
- Enhance nuclear safeguards



"Closed" Fuel Cycle

(in Current Recycling Countries)



GNEP-Advanced Recycling combined with Advanced Reactors

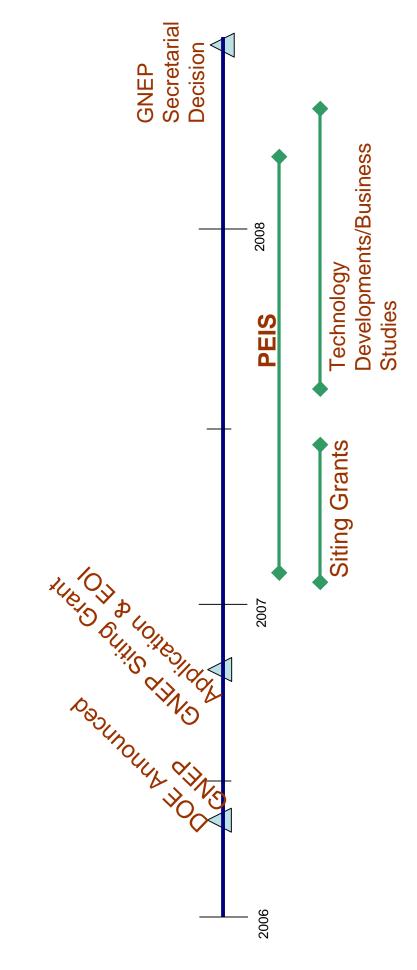
Facility Descriptions

Nuclear Fuel Recycle Center (CFTC)

- transuranics) and non-reusable constituents without separating Separates used fuel into reusable constituents (uranium and pure plutonium
- Fabricates fuel from transuranics for use in ARR
- DOE currently analyzing alternative technologies with used fuel throughputs

Advanced Recycling Reactor (ARR)

- Destroy usable waste products (transuranics) while generating electricity
- Proposed technology is a sodium-cooled fast reactor
- DOE currently analyzing alternative power ratings



GNEP Facility Timeline

CFTC & ARR Targeted for 2020 - 2025

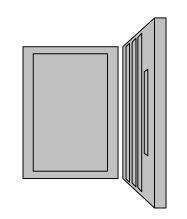
Summary

- GNEP promotes clean nuclear energy through maximizing recycling and minimizing waste, while reducing proliferation issues
 - GNEP development in early stage
- support the Secretary's decision in June of international participation in GNEP to DOE is encouraging industry and 2008.

-a Hague Facility Video

MHow to Submit Comments to DOE?

By US Mail to:



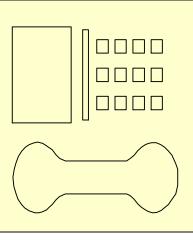
Mr. Timothy A. Frazier Office of Nuclear Energy/U.S. DOE 1000 Independence Ave, SW Washington, D.C. 20585



By phone: Toll free 866-645-7803

By fax: Toll free 866-645-7807

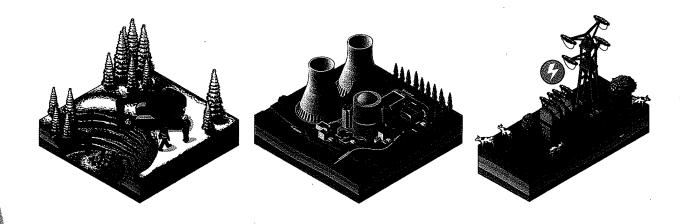




15-Minute Break



A new generation for energy generation AREVA in the U.S.







Did you know the following 10 facts about our company?

AREVA ...

- 1. Ranks as the No. 1 U.S. supplier in the following areas:
 - Nuclear energy products and services,
 - Energy management and energy market systems.
- 2. Generated \$1.8 billion in U.S. revenues in 2005.
- 3. Employs some 5,000 people at 40 locations throughout the U.S.
- Designed the U.S. Evolutionary Power Reactor (U.S. EPR), a Generation III+ nuclear reactor, to be built in the U.S. by American employees with U.S. resources.
- Develops advanced nuclear fuel cycle technologies from uranium mining and fuel fabrication to used-fuel management.
- With Constellation Energy, launched the Unistar Nuclear joint venture, which offers customers a new business model to license, build, own and operate a U.S. EPR as part of a standardized fleet.
- 7. Designs and develops instrumentation systems and services for radiation detection and monitoring, including U.S. homeland security solutions.
- 8. Provides dispatching systems that control 40 percent of the energy flowing in the U.S.
- 9. Supplies network products to two-thirds of all U.S. utilities.

AND Fortune Magazine

 Designated AREVA as a Global 500 Company and reported in 2005 that AREVA was The Most Admired Global Energy Company.

AREVA Products and Services

FRONT END

Mining, Chemistry, Enrichment, Fuel

The Front End businesses are involved in producing nuclear fuel for electric power generation: uranium mining, concentration, conversion and enrichment, and nuclear fuel fabrication.

REACTORS AND SERVICES

Reactors, Equipment, Nuclear Services, Nuclear Measurement, Consulting and Information Systems, Technicatome

The Reactors and Services division designs and builds pressurized water reactors (PWR), boiling water reactors (BWR) and research reactors. AREVA also offers products and services to operate and maintain every type of nuclear facility, as well as nuclear safety solutions for homeland security.

BACK END

Treatment-Recycling, Engineering, Cleanup, Logistics

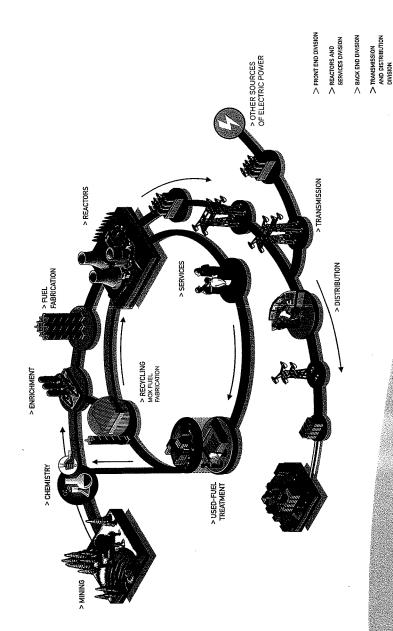
This division provides used-fuel management services after the nuclear fuel has been discharged from the reactor. AREVA is the leading U.S. provider of interim storage solutions for used nuclear fuel to customers opting for this approach.

TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION

Products, Systems, Services and Automation

The Transmission and Distribution division offers products, systems, services, automation and information systems for the medium- and high-voltage electricity markets. Our products are used to transmit and distribute electricity from the generator to the large end-user.

World-Class Technology Proven Solutions



Key Figures for 2005

5,000 employees across the U.S.

\$1.8 billion generated in U.S. revenues

AREVA Products and Services

FRONT END

Mining, Chemistry, Entrehment, Fue The Fortic to businesses are moned in prodicing incleasing the leader conver-

REACTORS AND SERVICES

Reactors, Equipment, Nuclear Services, Nuclear Measurement Consulting and Information Systems Technicatome The Rentrot's and Sam bas division designs and belong and belong when reactors (Britis) and designs (Britis) and research sectors (Britis) and research sectors to products and user centro products and user centro products and as services to operate and referrance and referrance and in the products and an interest and products and an interest and products and an interest and an in

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RANSMISSION AND

Products Systems Services and Automation

The trainsmission and Distribution division offers products systems services automation and information systems for the medium-and migh-votage electricity markets. Our products discused to trainsmit and distribute electricity from the generator to the large and user.



As the leading U.S. nuclear vendor and a key player in the electricity transmission and distribution sector APEVA — with its 5,000 Africhican employees — is constitted to serving the nation and paving the way for the future of the electropy market

With 40 locations across the nation and \$1.8 billion in revenues generated in 2006, AREVA, through its subsidiaries, combines homegrown leadership, access to worklyide expertise and a proven track record of performance.

In the U.S. and in over 100 countries around the world, AREVA is engaged in the 21st century's greatest challenges, making energy available to all, protecting the planet, and acting responsibly towards future generations. AREVA he is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland.

WWW.WANSEREVERSEUR

AREVA Inc.

4800 Hampden Lane Bethesda, Maryland 20814 Tel: 301-841-1600 Fax: 301-841-1611 www.us.areva.com

July 2006

THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

Nuclear Power: A Key Contributor To U.S. Energy

power's operational Nuclear cost efficiency and reliability, minimal effects on the environment are just a few of the many benefits that will make this energy source an important part of America's U.S. nuclear power future. generating companies currently operate 103 power reactors that produce nearly 20 percent of the nation's electricity. By 2015, an additional four nuclear power units are expected to be in operation, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. ensure that this important energy source remains a part of a balanced energy mix, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 provides incentives for investment in new nuclear power plant construction. These incentives include financial insurance covering delays for the first six units ordered, a production tax credit for the initial eight years' operation of the first 6,000 megawatts of new generation, and loan guarantees for construction costs.

Environmentally Friendly

Many environmental experts now agree that nuclear power has less effect on the environment then other energy sources. Consider these facts:

- Nuclear reactors produce clean energy. They do not emit harmful gases that can cause acid rain or greenhouse gases that can affect climate change.
- Through emissions trading, nuclear power plants help states meet clean-air standards.
- Electricity production by nuclear power prevented 3.32 million tons of sulfur dioxide, 1.05 million tons of nitrogen oxide, and 681.9 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from

- entering the earth's atmosphere in 2005.
- Unlike any other industry, the nuclear energy industry isolates its used fuel from the environment using U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission-approved containers.

Cost Effective

The favorable economics nuclear power are essential to sustaining or increasing growth in the industry. Resource availability, reliability, predictability, and public policies factor into nuclear affordability. Nuclear power, achieving the lowest production cost of the major sources of electricity, provides a cost effective choice for the American energy mix.

- recent data. The most published in 2005, states that, for the sixth consecutive year, plant's nuclear power baseload production cost of 1.72 cents per kilowatt-hour was lower than coal, oil and (Coal natural gas. reported at 2.21 cents, oil 8.09 cents, and natural gas 7.51
- Nuclear power avoids costly fossil fuel energy imports and helps ensure the long-term stability of prices.
- In 2004, the University of Chicago completed the first exhaustive study examining the economic competitiveness of nuclear power, considering the internalized expenses such as the cost of managing waste, lona managing and repositories decommissioning the plant at the end of its life. The study shows that the future cost associated with nuclear power production is comparable with gas and coal-based energy generation.

Reliable

- Nuclear power is one of the two major sources of baseload generation, which essentially runs year-round to provide the electricity that powers the American economy.
- Nuclear power plants are designed for endurance and can run for about 540 to 730 days between refueling shutdowns.
- U.S. reactors produced energy 89.7 percent of their running time in 2005. In 2004, the U.S. nuclear power industry set a record with an efficiency rate of 90.5 percent.

Exceptional Performance

nuclear industry's performance record in the last ten years shows the exceptional operation of nuclear power plants. Since 1996 – the year the last new reactor went into operation - U.S. nuclear power plants have increased the amount of electricity they produce by 17,000 amazing megawatts. This performance is the result of a combination of license renewals, power uprates and shorter, more efficient outages.

- License renewals have been granted for 46 units, and applications for an additional 35 units are pending. These renewed licenses represent about three-quarters of all U.S. reactors.
- Uprates increases in the power level at which a nuclear plant can operate – have added 4,845 megawatts of electricity to the U.S. electricity supply.
- Strong management of refueling outages have reduced the average time it takes for this key operation from three months to one,



- substantially increasing the time that reactors are producing electricity.
- The capacity factor (a measure of the amount of power produced compared with a unit's theoretical maximum) of U.S. nuclear power plants has risen from 66 percent in 1980 to 89.6 percent in 2005.

As a result of these activities, the same number of nuclear plants is producing considerably more electric power.

Supported By U.S. Energy Policy

vigorously U.S. energy policy continued the supports development of safe, clean nuclear plants. The U.S. power Department of Energy (DOE) established the Nuclear Power 2010 Program, which calls for the addition of 50,000 megawatts of nuclear power generation by 2020 based on estimates of growing electricity demand in the U.S.

- The Energy Policy Act of 2005 renews for 20 years the Price-Anderson Nuclear Industries Indemnity Act, which provides insurance to cover the cost of possible radiological accidents and includes provisions to encourage the development of advanced modular reactors.
- President Bush's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) seeks to develop an international consensus on expanding the use of nuclear power to meet the growing demand for electricity around the world, while creating the systems and technologies that limit proliferation.

Aging Reactors Mean The U.S. May Need Many More Nuclear Power Plants

By 2036, the original licenses for all U.S. nuclear units will expire. Some question if the current nuclear initiatives will be enough to meet the rising energy demands in

the U.S. If 20-year extensions were granted for all expiring licenses, in just over 50 years, every unit would have to be replaced, and that is without taking consideration increased into demand. DOE's Energy Information Administration (DOE EIA) estimated at the end of 2005 that 6,000 megawatts of new nuclear capacity would occur between now and 2030, largely as a result of the incentives included in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The Nuclear Energy Institute, the industry trade organization, that new plant maintains will "increase construction substantially from 2020 to 2030" beyond EIA's projection.

Rising Uranium Costs Make Recycling Economic

Fresh uranium for the oncethrough fuel cycle is a finite natural Although current resource. supplies meet the needs of the industry. the nuclear quality decreases as more and more uranium is mined. Mining also becomes more difficult as **quantities** of uranium ore decrease. The limited amounts of this resource can restrict supply and could lead to price increases, which can make recycling used nuclear fuel economically sensible.

consumption Uranium has surpassed the amount mined for the past 20 years. In 2005, production was 108 million pounds U3O8, while consumption was 175 million pounds U3O8. In 2005, the United States produced only 3 million pounds U3O8. Canada was the largest producer at 30 million pounds, followed by Australia at 25 million and Africa at 18 million. Since 2001, uranium prices have climbed from under \$10 to \$60 (November 2006) per pound U3O8. Between 2003 and 2005, spot market uranium prices increased nearly 260 percent, and near-term supply is limited.

Advanced Recycling Technologies Can Make The Critical Difference

Advancements in nuclear technology are meeting the needs caused by future energy growth. Yet, these technologies require development and deployment of and used fuel reactor treatment/recycling technologies. Five of six reactors in DOE's IV" development "Generation program involve closed fuel cycles with recycling capabilities. These so called "fast reactors" can burn plutonium combined with other isotopes efficiently. These units can function as burners, with the capability to close the nuclear fuel cycle with chemical separation technology, or they can function as breeders, units that can produce more fuel than they consume, without separating out weaponusable plutonium.

The recent rise in the price of fossil fuels has many demonstrated how important a diverse energy portfolio is for reliable, providing the costeffective electricity that fuels the U.S. economy. Nuclear plants economical, reliable provide baseload power without emitting greenhouse gases. The nation continues to invest in nuclear technologies that will meet today's energy needs and develop the nuclear power advanced that secure technologies our energy supplies for the future.



THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE FACT SHEET

What is The Nuclear Fuel Cycle?

The nuclear fuel cycle, pictured above, is a term used to describe the mining of uranium and the various processes it undergoes so that it can be (1) turned into reactor fuel, (2) removed from the reactor after its use, and (3) either recycled or disposed of.

The front end of the cycle covers the processes that enable the uranium to be fabricated into fuel. The back end of the cycle covers the processes that enable the used fuel to be either recycled to make more fuel or stored while awaiting final disposal. The term "closed fuel cycle" describes a cycle in which used fuel is recycled. An "open fuel cycle" refers to a cycle that does not involve recycling used fuel. Some refer to the open fuel cycle as the "once through" approach or direct disposal.

The US GNEP program, Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, involves possible approaches for waste disposal and non-proliferation and includes initiatives in the back end of the fuel cycle. Decisions made concerning this part of the cycle may affect the nuclear renaissance.

The Front End Or "Pre-Reactor Phase"

Mining and Ore Processing

Open pit or underground operations are used to extract uranium ore from the ground. Automation can be used for high-grade (more radioactive) ore so that miners do not come into contact with it. Extracted ore is processed at the mine into a concentrated form, called yellow cake.

Conversion

Yellow cake does not contain enough of the isotope needed for the chain reaction that creates energy. The uranium (yellow cake) needs to be enriched to increase this isotope. To be enriched, the uranium must undergo conversion to uranium hexafluoride, a gaseous form.

Enrichment

The enrichment process isolates the needed isotope by passing the gas through a porous surface or a centrifuge. Being lighter than the other atoms, the required isotope can pass through the porous surface more easily than the other atoms or collect in a different part of the centrifuge.

Fuel Fabrication

After enrichment, the gas is defluorinated, and the uranium is turned into an oxide powder that is pressed under very high pressure tomake small cylindrical pellets, which are sealed inside fuel rods. The rods are bundled into a fuel assembly and then placed in the reactor.

The Back End Or "Post-Reactor Phase"

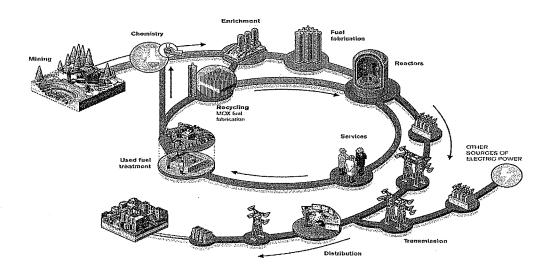
Used-Fuel Disposal

Disposal involves first removing the used fuel from the reactor and transferring it to temporary "wet" storage (in a pool) and later to "dry" storage. The used fuel is aged to lessen its radioactivity before it is shipped to a repository for disposal. The storage and shipping packages are specially designed for maximum safety and approved for use by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Used-Fuel Recycling

After cooling, the used fuel is treated chemically to separate its contents. The energy-producing components are converted into powder form, pressed under very high pressure to make pellets, and inserted into fuel rods (see "Fuel

Fabrication" above). Final waste materials are vitrified in a highly stable glass form -- nearly the chemical equivalent to obsidian lava that can be found intact in the oldest volcanoes -- and disposed of in specially designed containers.



MANAGING USED NUCLEAR FUEL

Renewed Interest In A Renewable Resource

With renewed interest in nuclear energy in the U.S. significant international interest, leaders in government, research and local communities have intensified debate around possible nuclear waste management and disposal solutions. The options available to manage used nuclear fuel continued to have evolve technologically, but they remain consistent in terms of affecting the "life cycle" of nuclear power generation.

From its earliest conception, the goal of the U.S. nuclear power industry was to close the fuel cycle by treating and reusing nuclear fuel until the energy it contained was essentially exhausted. Called reprocessing. this treatment strategy remained relevant from the mid-1950s through the mid-1970s, when uranium resources were thought to be limited and prices were high. During this time, recycling of fuel offered a prudent,

conservative policy.

Beginning in the early 1970s, discovery and development of new resources brought the price of uranium down. The cost for conversion and enrichment services gradually followed, and direct disposal was considered a better strategy for managing used fuel than reprocessing.

These changes, coupled with nonproliferation concerns about possible diversion of weaponsusable materials. began to change U.S. government policy on the closed nuclear fuel cycle. American policy became focused solely on nonproliferation concerns, and President Jimmy Carter banned spent commercial fuel reprocessing while acknowledging the rights of other nations to operate a closed fuel cycle.

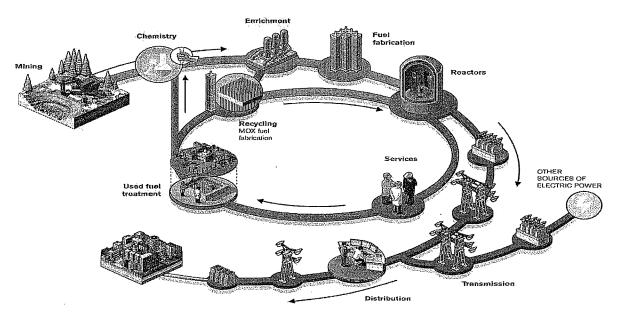
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Higher uranium costs, tighter fuel cycle supplies, continued schedule difficulties at the Yucca Mountain repository have brought U.S. fuel cycle policy back to the forefront of the nuclear debate.

Direct Disposal: The Open Nuclear Fuel Cycle

Direct disposal at Yucca Mountain has remained the U.S. policy for managing used nuclear fuel. In 1982, Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA), establishing the once-through fuel cycle as





U.S. nuclear policy. The law declared used fuel to be waste and called for the siting of two national underground geologic repositories for permanent disposal of spent fuel and other nuclear waste. DOE and nuclear utilities entered contracts under which the utilities paid a fee per kilowatt-hour. In return for these fees, DOE would move their spent fuel to a repository.

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Used Nuclear Fuel Treatment And Recycling: Closing The Fuel Cycle

Some countries recycle their used nuclear fuel. After cooling at the reactor and at the treatment plant, the used fuel assemblies are treated chemically to separate their contents. The energy-producing components (uranium plutonium) are recycled to make uranium oxide (UOX) fuel and mixed oxide (MOX) fuel. There are benefits to this recycling process:

- Recycling could eliminate need for additional repositories this century
- The process offers energy security by making the best use of existing fuel
- The economics of reprocessing and recycling can be comparable to those of the once-through fuel cycle
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The U.S. is exploring the benefits of recycling through the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). President Bush seeks to develop an international consensus expanding the use of nuclear power to meet the growing demand for clean power around world while limiting the proliferation.

One element of the program is to develop nuclear fuel treatment technologies that do not separate pure plutonium out of used fuel. GNEP would simultaneously increase fuel supply while reducing some major challenges to the Yucca Mountain repository.

Recycling in advanced burner reactors would address technical issues in licensing the repository by reducing the heat generation, radiotoxicity and volume of waste materials. As a result, GNEP would extend Yucca Mountain's capacity. The Yucca Mountain repository will continue to be the key component of the nation's nuclear management strategy, whether the nation decides to maintain its current open fuel cycle or to close the nuclear fuel cycle through recycling and treatment.



USED NUCLEAR FUEL TREATMENT AND RECYCLING

Recycling – A Used Fuel Strategy To Do More With Less

Recycling describes the series of processes that recover the energy-producing elements of uranium and plutonium from used nuclear fuel. The process separates waste products that can be packaged for disposal and recovers the remaining material to make more commercial reactor fuel. Recycling of used fuel means less uranium must be supplied as more nuclear fuel will be available.

How Is Recycling Done?

Current method

When used fuel leaves the reactor. it contains elements that still have energy potential. To collect this material, chemical treatment of the used fuel isolates or separates uranium and plutonium from the other transuranic elements and the fission products. Once separated. the uranium can be converted to a gas called uranium hexafluoride (UF6), re-enriched and fabricated into a type of nuclear fuel called uranium oxide (UOX) fuel. Recyclable materials can be further treated and combined with depleted uranium to make a new fuel

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Future methods for recycling

U.S. scientists are currently researching advanced treatment methods. Learning from the existing recycling programs in France, the United Kingdom, Russia and Japan, researchers are exploring new technologies to

develop advanced treatment methods that will not isolate pure plutonium, in order to reduce perceived proliferation concerns. One method - called UREX+ uses innovative separation processes to keep the transuranic elements. including plutonium. together. This method would enable the elimination transuranics in advanced burner reactors. Scientists demonstrated this process on a laboratory scale, successfully isolating pure uranium and keeping the transuranic elements together. The next step will be to carry out a larger scale demonstration to obtain cost and performance information.

Treatment And Recycling Facilities Are Operated Internationally

The closed fuel cycle offers demonstrated success. Largescale industrial treatment facilities exist in France, United Kingdom. Russia, and Japan. France's commercial used-fuel treatment facility has processed over 20,000 metric tons of used fuel over the past 20 years and has been certified compliant with the environmental standard. ISO 14001. The international community is working with the U.S. to advance recycling technology.

Recycling Delivers Major Benefits

The global nuclear industry has operated both open and closed fuel cycles over the last fifty years. Recycling offers specific benefits:

- The current recycling method significantly reduces waste volumes by enabling a substantial amount of the used fuel to be treated to produce more energy.
- Recycling produces extremely stable waste products that can

- be disposed of safely and securely.
- Early treatment of used fuel further optimizes repositories like Yucca Mountain by reducing the heat generation and radiotoxicity of the waste. With additional research and development, engineers will refine this process to optimize Yucca Mountain even further.
- Treatment and recycling of used nuclear fuel means that the U.S. may not need a second repository in this century.
- Treatment and recycling of UOX and transuranics fuel in a fleet of light water reactors can hedge against rising fuel costs.
- Challenges like energy security and climate change require consideration of diverse and creative solutions

 nuclear fuel treatment and recycling offer important options to expand our energy mix and meet growing energy needs.



THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

Nuclear Power: A Key Contributor To U.S. Energy

power's operational Nuclear cost efficiency and reliability, minimal effects on the environment are just a few of the many benefits that will make this energy source an important part of America's U.S. nuclear power future. generating companies currently operate 103 power reactors that produce nearly 20 percent of the nation's electricity. By 2015, an additional four nuclear power units are expected to be in operation, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. ensure that this important energy source remains a part of a balanced energy mix, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 provides incentives for investment in new nuclear power plant construction. These incentives include financial insurance covering delays for the first six units ordered, a production tax credit for the initial eight years' operation of the first 6,000 megawatts of new generation, and loan guarantees for construction costs.

Environmentally Friendly

Many environmental experts now agree that nuclear power has less effect on the environment then other energy sources. Consider these facts:

- Nuclear reactors produce clean energy. They do not emit harmful gases that can cause acid rain or greenhouse gases that can affect climate change.
- Through emissions trading, nuclear power plants help states meet clean-air standards.
- Electricity production by nuclear power prevented 3.32 million tons of sulfur dioxide, 1.05 million tons of nitrogen oxide, and 681.9 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from

- entering the earth's atmosphere in 2005.
- Unlike any other industry, the nuclear energy industry isolates its used fuel from the environment using U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission-approved containers.

Cost Effective

The favorable economics nuclear power are essential to sustaining or increasing growth in the industry. Resource availability, reliability, predictability, and public policies factor into nuclear affordability. Nuclear power, achieving the lowest production cost of the major sources of electricity, provides a cost effective choice for the American energy mix.

- recent data. The most published in 2005, states that, for the sixth consecutive year, plant's nuclear power baseload production cost of 1.72 cents per kilowatt-hour was lower than coal, oil and (Coal natural gas. reported at 2.21 cents, oil 8.09 cents, and natural gas 7.51
- Nuclear power avoids costly fossil fuel energy imports and helps ensure the long-term stability of prices.
- In 2004, the University of Chicago completed the first exhaustive study examining the economic competitiveness of nuclear power, considering the internalized expenses such as the cost of managing waste, lona managing and repositories decommissioning the plant at the end of its life. The study shows that the future cost associated with nuclear power production is comparable with gas and coal-based energy generation.

Reliable

- Nuclear power is one of the two major sources of baseload generation, which essentially runs year-round to provide the electricity that powers the American economy.
- Nuclear power plants are designed for endurance and can run for about 540 to 730 days between refueling shutdowns.
- U.S. reactors produced energy 89.7 percent of their running time in 2005. In 2004, the U.S. nuclear power industry set a record with an efficiency rate of 90.5 percent.

Exceptional Performance

nuclear industry's performance record in the last ten years shows the exceptional operation of nuclear power plants. Since 1996 – the year the last new reactor went into operation - U.S. nuclear power plants have increased the amount of electricity they produce by 17,000 amazing megawatts. This performance is the result of a combination of license renewals, power uprates and shorter, more efficient outages.

- License renewals have been granted for 46 units, and applications for an additional 35 units are pending. These renewed licenses represent about three-quarters of all U.S. reactors.
- Uprates increases in the power level at which a nuclear plant can operate – have added 4,845 megawatts of electricity to the U.S. electricity supply.
- Strong management of refueling outages have reduced the average time it takes for this key operation from three months to one,



- substantially increasing the time that reactors are producing electricity.
- The capacity factor (a measure of the amount of power produced compared with a unit's theoretical maximum) of U.S. nuclear power plants has risen from 66 percent in 1980 to 89.6 percent in 2005.

As a result of these activities, the same number of nuclear plants is producing considerably more electric power.

Supported By U.S. Energy Policy

vigorously U.S. energy policy continued the supports development of safe, clean nuclear plants. The U.S. power Department of Energy (DOE) established the Nuclear Power 2010 Program, which calls for the addition of 50,000 megawatts of nuclear power generation by 2020 based on estimates of growing electricity demand in the U.S.

- The Energy Policy Act of 2005 renews for 20 years the Price-Anderson Nuclear Industries Indemnity Act, which provides insurance to cover the cost of possible radiological accidents and includes provisions to encourage the development of advanced modular reactors.
- President Bush's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) seeks to develop an international consensus on expanding the use of nuclear power to meet the growing demand for electricity around the world, while creating the systems and technologies that limit proliferation.

Aging Reactors Mean The U.S. May Need Many More Nuclear Power Plants

By 2036, the original licenses for all U.S. nuclear units will expire. Some question if the current nuclear initiatives will be enough to meet the rising energy demands in

the U.S. If 20-year extensions were granted for all expiring licenses, in just over 50 years, every unit would have to be replaced, and that is without taking consideration increased into demand. DOE's Energy Information Administration (DOE EIA) estimated at the end of 2005 that 6,000 megawatts of new nuclear capacity would occur between now and 2030, largely as a result of the incentives included in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The Nuclear Energy Institute, the industry trade organization, that new plant maintains will "increase construction substantially from 2020 to 2030" beyond EIA's projection.

Rising Uranium Costs Make Recycling Economic

Fresh uranium for the oncethrough fuel cycle is a finite natural Although current resource. supplies meet the needs of the industry. the nuclear quality decreases as more and more uranium is mined. Mining also becomes more difficult as **quantities** of uranium ore decrease. The limited amounts of this resource can restrict supply and could lead to price increases, which can make recycling used nuclear fuel economically sensible.

consumption Uranium has surpassed the amount mined for the past 20 years. In 2005, production was 108 million pounds U3O8, while consumption was 175 million pounds U3O8. In 2005, the United States produced only 3 million pounds U3O8. Canada was the largest producer at 30 million pounds, followed by Australia at 25 million and Africa at 18 million. Since 2001, uranium prices have climbed from under \$10 to \$60 (November 2006) per pound U3O8. Between 2003 and 2005, spot market uranium prices increased nearly 260 percent, and near-term supply is limited.

Advanced Recycling Technologies Can Make The Critical Difference

Advancements in nuclear technology are meeting the needs caused by future energy growth. Yet, these technologies require development and deployment of and used fuel reactor treatment/recycling technologies. Five of six reactors in DOE's IV" development "Generation program involve closed fuel cycles with recycling capabilities. These so called "fast reactors" can burn plutonium combined with other isotopes efficiently. These units can function as burners, with the capability to close the nuclear fuel cycle with chemical separation technology, or they can function as breeders, units that can produce more fuel than they consume, without separating out weaponusable plutonium.

The recent rise in the price of fossil fuels has many demonstrated how important a diverse energy portfolio is for reliable, providing the costeffective electricity that fuels the U.S. economy. Nuclear plants economical, reliable provide baseload power without emitting greenhouse gases. The nation continues to invest in nuclear technologies that will meet today's energy needs and develop the nuclear power advanced that secure technologies our energy supplies for the future.



THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE FACT SHEET

What is The Nuclear Fuel Cycle?

The nuclear fuel cycle, pictured above, is a term used to describe the mining of uranium and the various processes it undergoes so that it can be (1) turned into reactor fuel, (2) removed from the reactor after its use, and (3) either recycled or disposed of.

The front end of the cycle covers the processes that enable the uranium to be fabricated into fuel. The back end of the cycle covers the processes that enable the used fuel to be either recycled to make more fuel or stored while awaiting final disposal. The term "closed fuel cycle" describes a cycle in which used fuel is recycled. An "open fuel cycle" refers to a cycle that does not involve recycling used fuel. Some refer to the open fuel cycle as the "once through" approach or direct disposal.

The US GNEP program, Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, involves possible approaches for waste disposal and non-proliferation and includes initiatives in the back end of the fuel cycle. Decisions made concerning this part of the cycle may affect the nuclear renaissance.

The Front End Or "Pre-Reactor Phase"

Mining and Ore Processing

Open pit or underground operations are used to extract uranium ore from the ground. Automation can be used for high-grade (more radioactive) ore so that miners do not come into contact with it. Extracted ore is processed at the mine into a concentrated form, called yellow cake.

Conversion

Yellow cake does not contain enough of the isotope needed for the chain reaction that creates energy. The uranium (yellow cake) needs to be enriched to increase this isotope. To be enriched, the uranium must undergo conversion to uranium hexafluoride, a gaseous form.

Enrichment

The enrichment process isolates the needed isotope by passing the gas through a porous surface or a centrifuge. Being lighter than the other atoms, the required isotope can pass through the porous surface more easily than the other atoms or collect in a different part of the centrifuge.

Fuel Fabrication

After enrichment, the gas is defluorinated, and the uranium is turned into an oxide powder that is pressed under very high pressure tomake small cylindrical pellets, which are sealed inside fuel rods. The rods are bundled into a fuel assembly and then placed in the reactor.

The Back End Or "Post-Reactor Phase"

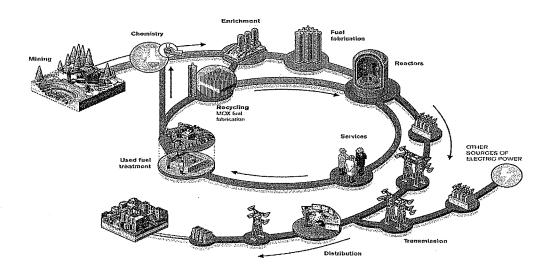
Used-Fuel Disposal

Disposal involves first removing the used fuel from the reactor and transferring it to temporary "wet" storage (in a pool) and later to "dry" storage. The used fuel is aged to lessen its radioactivity before it is shipped to a repository for disposal. The storage and shipping packages are specially designed for maximum safety and approved for use by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Used-Fuel Recycling

After cooling, the used fuel is treated chemically to separate its contents. The energy-producing components are converted into powder form, pressed under very high pressure to make pellets, and inserted into fuel rods (see "Fuel

Fabrication" above). Final waste materials are vitrified in a highly stable glass form -- nearly the chemical equivalent to obsidian lava that can be found intact in the oldest volcanoes -- and disposed of in specially designed containers.



MANAGING USED NUCLEAR FUEL

Renewed Interest In A Renewable Resource

With renewed interest in nuclear energy in the U.S. significant international interest, leaders in government, research and local communities have intensified debate around possible nuclear waste management and disposal solutions. The options available to manage used nuclear fuel continued to have evolve technologically, but they remain consistent in terms of affecting the "life cycle" of nuclear power generation.

From its earliest conception, the goal of the U.S. nuclear power industry was to close the fuel cycle by treating and reusing nuclear fuel until the energy it contained was essentially exhausted. Called reprocessing. this treatment strategy remained relevant from the mid-1950s through the mid-1970s, when uranium resources were thought to be limited and prices were high. During this time, recycling of fuel offered a prudent,

conservative policy.

Beginning in the early 1970s, discovery and development of new resources brought the price of uranium down. The cost for conversion and enrichment services gradually followed, and direct disposal was considered a better strategy for managing used fuel than reprocessing.

These changes, coupled with nonproliferation concerns about possible diversion of weaponsusable materials. began to change U.S. government policy on the closed nuclear fuel cycle. American policy became focused solely on nonproliferation concerns, and President Jimmy Carter banned spent commercial fuel reprocessing while acknowledging the rights of other nations to operate a closed fuel cycle.

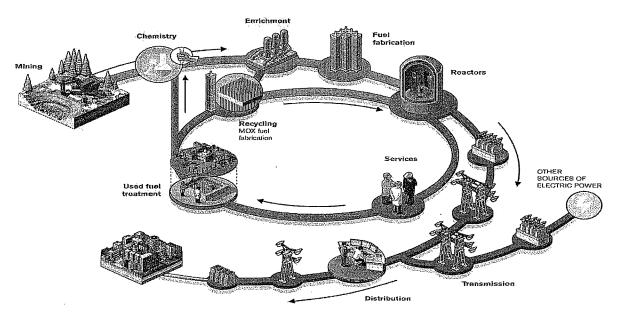
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